

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Syria/Yugoslavia/Germany

DATE DISTR. 6 November 1948 ✓

SUBJECT Germans and Yugoslavs in Syrian Army
and Government Posts

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

25X1A

[REDACTED]

1. Lieutenant Colonel Friede now at Qatanah as chief of the German instructors for the Syrian Army, was formerly a member of the German Air Corps and was awarded the Ritterkreuz. Friede was recruited for the Syrian Army while he was in Rome by Akram Tabarah who made a trip to Europe under the assumed name of Hami to hire German and Yugoslav Officers and soldiers to serve as instructors for the Syrian Army. Friede has at present about thirty German officer instructors under him, most of them brought to Syria by Tabarah.

2. Among the officers recruited were:

a. Huert Wolf. A German from Düsseldorf. He is twenty-nine years of age, a professional soldier and a former member of the 32 Tank Division of the Wehrmacht. In Germany Wolf lived in the French Zone. He came to Italy in June and was recruited there by Friede. Wolf's rank in the German Army was lieutenant, but in Syria he is accepted as a captain.

This document is hereby regarded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

b. Miklos Ujvary. (sic) Comment. Possibly Ujvary.)

25X1A

Hungarian, about thirty-six years of age, who was a captain in the engineers. Ujvary was in Italy, at the detention camp at Fossoli. He managed to obtain a fifteen days leave and was engaged in Rome by Friede. Ujvary is slated to work at Qadam in the Syrian Army factory, constructing anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. He will be helped by a German mechanical engineer and a German mechanic.

Document No. 07
NO CHANGE in Class.
DECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 73
Auth: DDA REC: 77/1763
Date: 24/05/78 By: 029

3. At present there is friction between the Germans, Yugoslavs, and Syrians in the Syrian Army. The Germans are resented by the Syrians because they are allowed to resume their former officer grade, and by the Yugoslavs because the Germans receive LS 150 per month. Comment. Friction between the Germans and the Yugoslavs over the question of salary has also been

25X1X

25X1A

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB					
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

~~SECRET~~

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

4. Ahmad Bey Ceric, who is accepted by the Syrian Government as the military representative of the Croat Moslems in Syria, told source that several Yugoslav officers had come to ask his advice about joining the forces of Hajj Amin Husayni, the Grand Mufti. Ceric stated that both the Yugoslavs and the Germans in the Syrian Army were becoming disgusted with that army and felt that the Grand Mufti might be able to accomplish something. [REDACTED] Comment. For more information on Ahmad Bey Ceric see [REDACTED] 25X1A
5. Sefkija Muftic, another leader of the Croat Moslems in Syria, is training a battalion for the Grand Mufti at a camp on the Beirut-Tripoli road, about 10 kilometers from Beirut. [REDACTED] Muftic claims that this is the most promising group of students he has seen since his arrival in the Middle East, and he considers them far better than the troops which comprised the Liberation Army. At present there are about four hundred men in the battalion. 25X1A
6. Among the colony of Germans and German sympathizers in Damascus is Franz Wanning, a former Krupp employee and Nazi. Wanning is at present the manager of the Frigorific Company, an ice and cold storage plant at Mezze. Wanning also offers technical advice to the Syrian Army.
7. Wanning arrived in Syria from Germany in September 1947, after considerable difficulty. He was finally allowed into Syria through the efforts of Dr. Sa'id Fattah Imam and Fawzi Qawuqji, both of whom had known Wanning in Germany. Wanning has since become a member of Imam's fascist clique in Syria and both Imam and Qawuqji have made strenuous efforts to obtain for him some substantially remunerative position with the Syrian Government.
8. With some bitterness Wanning told source that he and other Germans would never be "appreciated" by the Syrians or accepted in important advisory positions so long as Jamil Mardam, whom Wanning termed a "British tool," remained as Prime Minister. The "practical" members of the Syrian Government, according to Wanning, have had to resort to all kinds of ruses to keep from Mardam the fact that German technicians and military advisers are employed at several spots in the Syrian Government.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~SECRET~~